

REMARKS

Claims 3-9, 11, 14-20, and 22-24 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8, 9, 19, 20, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,983,270 to Abraham.

Applicant has amended claim 8 to include the subject matter of claim 10, and accordingly has cancelled claim 10. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 19 to include the subject matter of claim 21, and has cancelled claim 21. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Claim rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-7, 10-12, 14-18, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Abraham in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,134,591 to Nickles.

Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 in independent form, and has amended claims 5 and 16 to change their respective dependencies. Claim 1 has been cancelled.

Claim 3 recites the feature of an analyzer which monitors a second time at which packets arrive. The Examiner maintains that this feature is met by Abraham at col. 7, lines 51-67; col. 9, lines 51-65; and col. 47, lines 14-24. However, Applicant respectfully disagree.

At col. 7, Abraham merely teaches the general operation of the filter executive 76 and the filter engine 78, and thus does not mention monitoring a second time. Similarly, col. 9 describes that the filter engine monitors packets according to a rule, but does not disclose monitoring a second time. At col. 47, Abraham teaches that the filter executive 76 stores a record in an IP log load table 160 including the start time of the transaction for each IP packet collected. Presumably, filter executive 76 also records a time the same packet is transmitted. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Abraham does not disclose monitoring a first time and a second time that the packet *arrives*, as set forth by claim 3. Nickles does not cure this deficiency of Abraham. Therefore, claim 3 is patentable over the Abraham and Nickles combination for this reason.

Claim 4 recites the feature of a first device which updates the monitoring parameter and the threshold parameter, when instructed by the end-user. The Examiner maintains that this feature is met by Abraham at col. 2, lines 54-60 and claim 1. However, at the cited portions, Abraham only discloses generally updating mapping information. Abraham thus does not specifically teach updating the monitoring and threshold parameters. Moreover, Abraham does not teach that these parameters are updated, when instructed by an end-user, as set forth by claim 4. Nickles does not cure this deficiency. Therefore, claim 4 is patentable over the Abraham and Nickles combination for this reason.

Claims 5-7 and 16-18 are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

Claim 8 recites the feature of retrieving the user management table based on the ID number and password both input by the end-user. The Examiner argues that Nickles teaches a password, and that it would have been obvious to use this password along with the ID to request the user management table. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Nickles only teaches storing a username and password together in a table. Abraham teaches that a user logs in, and a rule is optimized for the user depending on certain policies. However, Abraham does not teach that the user management table is retrieved based on the password input by the end-user. Nor would this be obvious. Applicant notes that all of the functions of the filter executive and filter engine take place on the network server 50 itself. Therefore, there is no need to look up rule information using the user's password because security is not an issue. The user has already logged into the LAN. It is simpler and more direct to use only the userid. Plus, additional manipulation of the user's password would increase risk of a security breach. Thus, Applicant submits that there is no suggestion to use the password in addition to the ID for retrieving the user management table. Since this feature is taught by neither Abrahams nor Nickles, claim 8 is patentable over the Abraham and Nickles combination for this reason. Claim 19 recites similar feature and is therefore patentable for the same reasons. The remaining claim are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

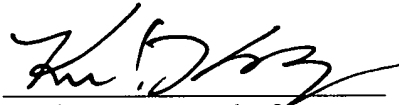
Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/788,566

Q63195

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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